



"Religious, Spiritual and Secular College Students: Are We Seeing the Emergence of Three Distinctive Worldviews?"

BARRY KOSMIN
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013
4:30 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.
KRAVIS CENTER SEMINAR ROOM 321
LECTURE OPEN TO ALL 5 COLLEGES.

RSVP TO ehuerta@cmc.edu. Seating is limited.

Young adult Americans have been identified as the population most responsible for recent changes in the nation's religious identification and patterns of religiosity. Disaffiliation from religion is increasing (Kosmin & Keysar, 2009). Categories and classifications are being redefined among a generation where personal choice is privileged over ascribed identity. In order to better understand this trend the ARIS 2013 College Student Survey focused on a particular segment of the millennial generation who are currently students in higher education. This research investigated the phenomenon of the growing number of young Americans who say they are "secular" as well as those who say they are "spiritual but not religious." Who are the secular and spiritual identifiers? How are they different from each other and from religious people in their opinions and beliefs about science, social issues and politics? What does this trend mean for the future of American society?

Barry Kosmin, sociologist and author of over twenty books, is Director of the Institute for the Study of Secularism and Culture at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. He is the joint editor of the new academic journal *Secularism & Nonreligion* and was one of the principal investigators of the 2008 <u>American Religious Identification Survey</u> (ARIS).